

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, paragraph [0002] between lines 11-24, please delete the originally filed paragraph and insert the following amended paragraph.

[0002] The commercial emulsifiable concentrate formulations of certain herbicides are ~~often~~ often mixed with water and applied to the ~~soil~~ soil surface. Application to a dry ~~soil~~ soil surface that remains dry for 10 to 14 days without rainfall or irrigation may lead to a dramatic reduction in weed control. This reduced efficacy is believed to be due to volatilization and photodegradation of the active ingredient. In addition, recent trends in tillage methods ("no-till") result in the accretion of large amounts of plant materials ~~on~~ on the surface of the ~~soil~~ soil. These are mainly cellulosic materials comprising dead stalks and leaves from the previous harvest, generally called "trash". In no-till conditions the herbicide is applied over the trash. Certain formulations of herbicides, notably EC formulations are absorbed by the trash. When this occurs, a reduced amount of herbicide reaches the ~~soil~~ soil which is the intended target. As a result the herbicide may not be present in the ~~soil~~ soil in herbicidal amounts or to control weed growth. This absorption of herbicide is not fully released even after rainfall.

Page 2, paragraph [0007] between lines 11-20, please delete the originally filed paragraph and insert the following amended paragraph.

[0007] The method of the invention decreases the volatilization of the active ingredient as compared to standard formulations. It also provides for decreased photodegradation of the active ingredients. In addition, the method of the instant invention provides for increased safety of the crop being protected either by mitigating damage from a tank mix partner or by minimizing the effect of the herbicide on the crop being affected. Microcapsule formulations of this invention show a safening effect, i.e. much less damage to a variety of crops compared with EC formulations, when applied post-emergence. Finally, ~~herbicide~~ microcapsule formulations of this invention are absorbed ~~on~~ in trash to a much smaller extent than EC formulations, and are more effective in weed control under no-till field conditions.

Page 3, paragraph [0013] between lines 8-13, please delete the originally filed paragraph and insert the following amended paragraph.

[0013] In general, "herbicidally effective amount" means the amount needed to achieve an observable herbicidal effect ~~on~~ in plant growth, including the effects of plant necrosis, plant death, growth inhibition, reproduction inhibition, inhibition of proliferation, and removal, destruction, or otherwise diminishing the occurrence and activity of a plant. One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the potency and, therefore, a "herbicidally effective amount," can vary for the various compositions used in the invention.